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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/987,991 | 11/16/2001 | Bjorn Bengtsson | 59589.000028 | 8043 |

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EXAMINER

HE, AMY

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2858

DATE MAILED: 04/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/987,991

Applicant(s)

BENGTTSSON, BJORN

Examiner

Amy He

Art Unit

2858

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-63 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 16 November 2001 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____ 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claim 45 is objected to because it seems that it should depend from claim 44, instead of claim 34 as claimed. Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102 (b) as being anticipated by Beland (U. S. Patent No. 5, 966, 425).

Referring to claims 1 and 37, Beland discloses a voltage divider system (in Figure 8) comprising:

a high voltage impedance element/means (the series connected resistors R1, R2 and R3), connected to an input node (180) for receiving an input signal;

a low voltage impedance element/means (R4), connected to the high voltage impedance element (see Figure 8); and

at least one guard element/means (capacitor series 181), the at least one guard element being coupled between the high voltage impedance element and ground (column 15, lines 22-34).

Referring to claim 55, Beland discloses a voltage divider (in Figure 8), comprising:

a plurality of series-connected high voltage resistors (R1, R2 and R3), the series-connected high voltage resistors connected to an input node (180) for receiving an input signal;

at least one low voltage resistive element (R4), the at least one low voltage resistive element connected to the series-connected high voltage resistors (see Figure 8); and

at least one capacitive guard (capacitor series 181), the at least one capacitive guard connected between the series-connected high voltage resistors and ground (see Figure 8).

Referring to claims 2 and 38, Beland discloses a sample node (see node in Figure 8) between the high voltage impedance element/means and the low voltage impedance element/means for sampling a reduced voltage representation of the input signal.

Referring to claims 3-4 and 39-40, Beland discloses a measurement device (current measuring apparatus 320 in Figure 1) connected to the sample node for sampling a current value.

Referring to claims 5-7 and 41-43, Beland discloses that the high voltage impedance element/means comprises a plurality of resistive element/resistors (R1, R2 and R3 in Figure 8).

Referring to claims 8-10, 44-46 and 56, Beland discloses that the guard element comprises a plurality of capacitive element/capacitors (See capacitors in Figure 8).

Referring to claims 11-12, 47-48 and 57-58, Beland discloses a plurality of guard elements/capacitive guard (capacitive series 181 or conductive shield segments, column 15, lines 27-34).

Referring to claims 13-15, 49-51 and 59-61, Beland discloses a resistive guard element/resistor (conductive shield segments shown in Figure 8, each with a resistance, are considered as the resistive guard elements/resistors) coupled to the at least one capacitive element (capacitive series 181 in Figure 8), which increases a stability of a voltage drop across the high voltage impedance element/means (resistor series 182 in Figure 8).

Referring to claims 16 and 52, Beland discloses that the guard element (181 or 183 in Figure 8) is coaxially mounted around the high voltage impedance element/means (182 in Figure 8).

Referring to claims 17-18, 53-54 and 62-63, Beland discloses that the guard element (181 and 183 in Figure 8) shunts stray capacitive current to ground (column 15, lines 31-34), and the shunted capacitive currents stabilize a frequency response of the voltage divider (column 16, lines 19-22).


Referring to claims 19-36, they are the method claims corresponding to the rejected system claims 1-18 and 37-54. They are rejected for the same reasons as stated above for the rejection of the system claims.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Amy He whose telephone number is (703) 305-3360. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30am-5pm Monday through Friday. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, N. Le can be reached on (703) 308-0750.

The official Fax numbers for the organization are (703-872-9318) Before-Final and (703-872-9319) After-Final Office actions. Any inquiry of a general nature relating to this application should be directed to the receptionist at (703) 305-4900.

am
AH
April 7, 2003


N. Le
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800